



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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February 20, 2003

TO: Minerals File
FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist
RE: Site Inspection, Georgia Pacific, Eagle Canyon Quarry, M/015/050, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: February 11, 2003
Time of Inspection: about 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Conditions: Mostly cloudy, 20's
Participants: Russ Harms, Georgia Pacific; Dean Nyffeler, BLM; Susan White and Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

We were in the area and decided to look at this site.

Getting to the site:

It is not hard to find the site. Take the Moore exit from I-70 and head northwest. You first pass a gravel quarry then, a few miles later, Diamond K Gypsum. About a mile or so from Diamond K is the Eagle Canyon Quarry.

Observations:

Mr. Harms gave us a map of the disturbed area he made using a GPS unit. It shows 42.37 acres of disturbance, but the site is bonded for 36 acres.

There are several areas near the road that have been regraded (though the operator may not have intended that this regrading be final), and there are windrows or berms in some of these areas that are not, for the most part, on the contour (Photo 1). Photo 2 shows a soil stockpile near the road.

Mr. Harms indicated the graded areas have not been seeded. As close as we could tell, topsoil has been spread in some of these areas but not in others. A native shrub has become established naturally in most of the regraded areas south of the road. We are unsure what species of *Atriplex* this shrub is. Although I believe it is Castle Valley saltbush, *Atriplex gardneri* Var. *cuneata*, the leaves are narrower than one would expect for this species. It could also be trident saltbush, *Atriplex gardneri* Var. *tridentata*, or a hybrid.

On the east side of the road is a regraded area, and there is little vegetation that has become established in this area except in a swale on the northwest side. There are some signs of erosion, but it is not severe.

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Georgia Pacific/Eagle Canyon Quarry

M/015/050

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The western parts of the disturbed area farther from the road have not been graded. This area basically consists of about five quarries in close proximity to each other. Some of the area is shown in Photos 3-6.

Just to the right of the area shown in Photo 2 is a drainage that has been blocked by the road. We expected to see a culvert under the road, but there was none. There was evidence that water had flowed in this channel and been blocked by the fill placed for the road.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The operator should put signs on the soil piles so this material is not accidentally used as fill when the site is graded.

The areas that have been graded and have good vegetation cover should not be redisturbed if possible. The berms in these areas will probably persist for an extended period, but since it is so difficult to establish vegetation in this area, it would be better to leave the berms than risk not being able to get anything to grow. Those areas that have berms but do not have adequate vegetation will need to be regraded to eliminate the berms. These areas should be left as rough as possible to help retain water and increase the chances for revegetation success. If any sort of berms are left, they should be parallel to the contour.

If the operator intends no further mining on the east side of the road, this area should have final reclamation treatments, including surface preparation and seeding. Surface preparation should include roughening and, if necessary, ripping to relieve compaction. As far as possible the vegetation that has become established in this area should be avoided, especially the good cover in the swale.

The watershed that drains to the blocked drainage is not large, so I do not feel it is necessary to install a culvert under the road. It will be necessary for the operator to restore this drainage during reclamation.

The operator needs to respond as soon as possible to the Division's request for information relating to the bond recalculation. By November 12, 2002, the operator was supposed to have submitted maps and other information so the Division could recalculate the bond, but the Division has not received this information. Although the operator gave me a GPS map of the disturbed area showing the amount of disturbance on each side of the road, I did not consider this to be a response to the Division's request and do not believe the operator intended it to be a response. As part of the bond review, the Division will need to consider that the mine acreage has increased beyond that for which the site was bonded.

jb

cc: Dean Nyffeler, Price BLM
Russ Harms, Georgia Pacific

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ATTACHMENT

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Photographs

M/015/050, Eagle Canyon Quarry, Georgia Pacific

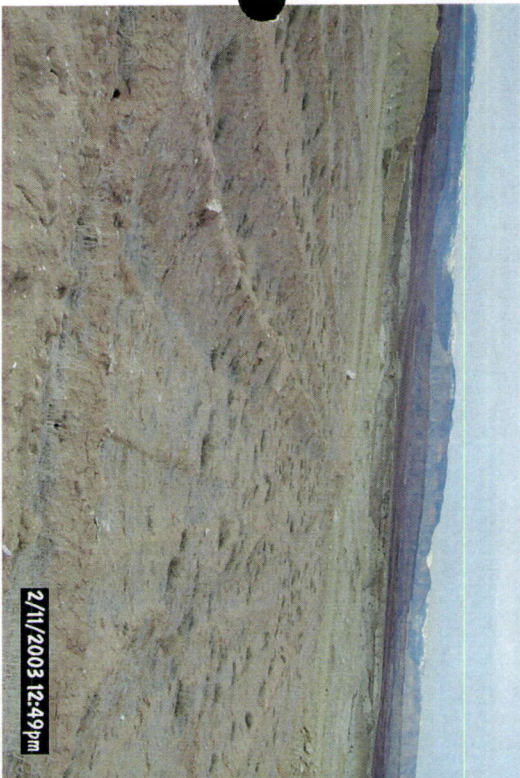


Photo 1. Graded area. Although this photo is tilted, note that the berms are not on the contour. There is not a lot of vegetation, but the cover is likely at least 70 percent of undisturbed surrounding areas.

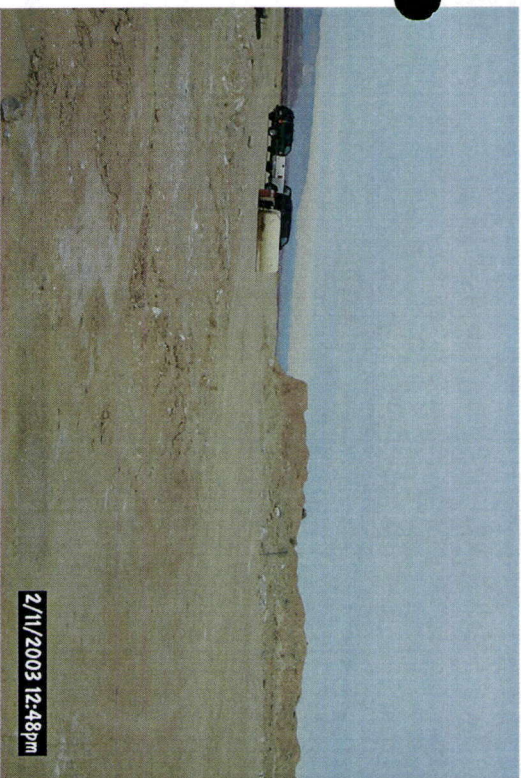


Photo 2. The pile on the right side of center is a soil stockpile.



Photo 3. Some of the disturbed area that has not been regraded.

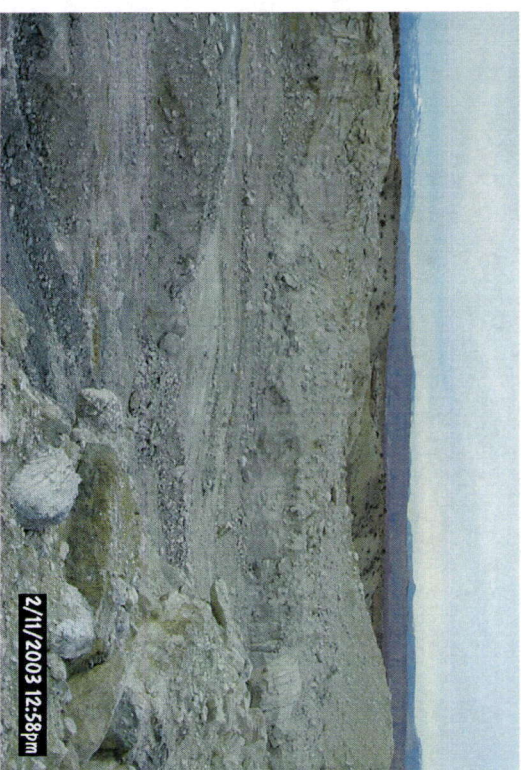


Photo 4. One of the quarries on the west side of the disturbed area.

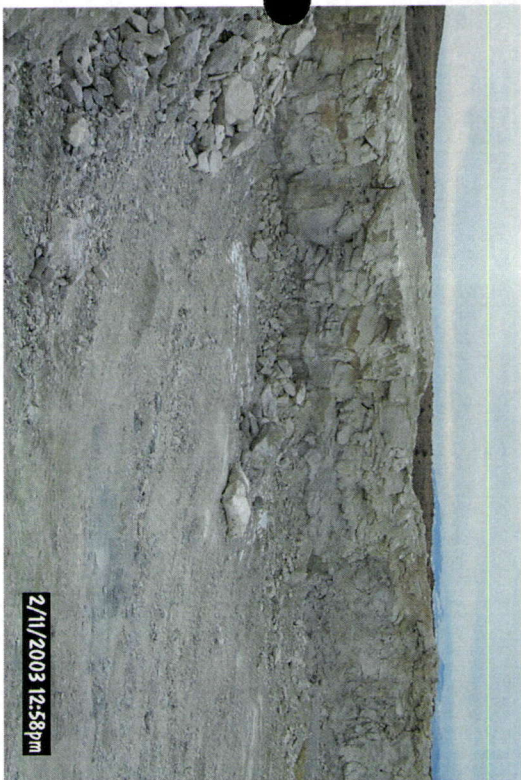


Photo 5. Another quarry on the west side of the disturbed area.

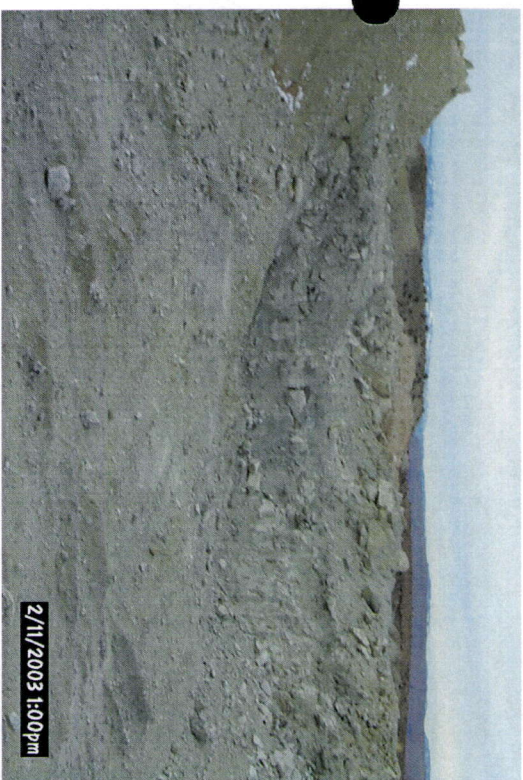


Photo 6. Another quarry on the west side of the disturbed area.